



**Agenda Item C4**  
**Report on the patrol vessel 'Ken Green'**  
**Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority**  
**Quarterly report for the period ending March 2013**

**Priorities of vessel for quarter**

- Check closed Cockle areas.
- Check whelk boats for compliance of emergency byelaw.
- Patrol District for any large vessel infringement of byelaws.
- Inspect gill and trammel netting vessels for compliance with EU gear legislation.
- Inspect trawling vessels for EU gear legislation and catch composition.
- Record data of all vessel sightings.
- Record data of all fishing fixed nets and pots.
- Input key enforcement information into national fisheries enforcement database (MCSS).
- Inspect oyster dredging vessels for byelaw compliance
- Shore enforcement.
- Monitor Scallop fishing at Southern end of district for (undersized scallops and vessels working within the 3 miles- SSFC inherited byelaw).
- Check closed Herring areas.

**Fisheries Enforcement**

The number of sea patrols this quarter have been affected by the severe winter weather which has been dominated by strong winds. Fishing effort throughout the quarter has been minimal due to weather conditions and shortage of fish. Older members of the fishing community relate the weather this quarter to the winter of 1963, when the weather was equally severe, especially the low water temperatures.

Risked Based Enforcement has been developed and came into operation this quarter. It involves identifying potential areas where offences are likely to occur and by using a risk matrix sea patrols and shore inspections are allocated.

Cockle harvesting areas have been monitored to ensure that the closure of beds is upheld. Vessels using trawls, static nets and drift nets have been inspected;

nets have been measured, and the size of fish and the contents of the catch checked. The whelk fishery continues to grow with more local vessels joining this fishery. These vessels have been monitored with their gear and catches inspected for compliance with the Emergency Whelk byelaw. Vessels engaged in dredging for oysters have been inspected, their catch and dredges measured. Shore patrols have been carried out by the crew, fish landings inspected and nets measured when requested. The Scallop Fishery has been monitored but effort has been minimal. Seed mussel dredging been observed and checked for compliance of the byelaw.

### **Conservation/Survey work**

The crew have been participating in the Sea Angling 2012: shore and private boat survey. This Cefas scientific survey is part of a project to ascertain the effect of angling on the fish stocks around the coast and the average size of fish being caught, and their impact on the local economy.

The Ken Green has been carrying out an avian by-catch survey in the Thames Estuary as part of a joint project with Natural England. The survey commenced in October 2012 and concluded 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013. Red Throated Diver is the main species in the survey. Observation of vessels has been undertaken while hauling their gill nets and questionnaires has been completed.

The "Informing the Future" fisherman's data collecting scheme has completed its first quarter, crew members have been analysing the data.

Sea bed surveys have been attempted using the ROV (Remote Operated Vehicle) but were unsuccessful due to the clarity of the water.

### **Statistics**

The Ken Green this quarter has patrolled 278 miles, sighted twenty four registered fishing vessels most of which have been sighted on several occasions. Four registered vessels were inspected from the Ken Green and six non-boarding inspections took place. In the course of our patrols twenty four closed areas were monitored. Twenty one sets of pot markers have been inspected. In the course of our inspections it was necessary to issue one verbal warning.

## **Maintenance**

Contractors fitted a replacement radar to the vessel in January, with assistance from the crew.

The generator fuel injector pump seals failed, the pump was removed by the crew and reinstated after replacement seals had been fitted by a specialist company.

A Flexible Hydraulic pipe fitted to starboard engine hydraulic pump failed, this pipe on both engines has been replaced. The engine room hand bilge pump has been replaced and the vessels' domestic bank of batteries renewed; all work carried out by the crew.

All manufacturers recommended servicing has been carried out on the Caterpillar main engines and generator. Monthly safety checks have been carried out on all the vessels equipment.

## **Other information**

Due to the unsettled weather throughout this quarter, joint patrols with MMO officers had to be cancelled.

Mr J. Nichols (Vice Chairman), Mr D. Deverson and myself carried out evaluation sea trials on a 17 metre catamaran in the Wash. It was worthwhile to be able to control the vessel and see how it performed under way.

## **Crew training**

All the crew attended a three day training course held at the Brightlingsea office covering key species, risk based enforcement planning, and tasks for the coming year. I attended a one day course on Excel spread sheets to assist my IT training held at the Ramsgate office. Miss Evanna Lyons attended a fisheries enforcement course at Torquay.

**Andy Kennedy**  
**Skipper**